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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Canal Winchester Approves New Sanitary Sewer Ordinance

CANAL WINCHESTER – Sanitary sewers are dedicated lines laid underground to carry sewage from homes and business throughout an area. A sanitary sewer backup can be both costly and a threat to public health. Like many communities across the country, Canal Winchester is always looking at ways to prevent these backups and recently passed an updated ordinance to help combat the problem.

Canal Winchester's new sanitary sewer ordinance defines how its system can be used and what can and cannot be flushed into it by both residents and businesses. For example, businesses that are required to install and maintain a grease trap are now being held to stricter standards for having their grease traps serviced. Grease traps are devices that stop waste grease from entering the system. These devices are necessary because grease clogs pipes and causes problems with pumps and controls, resulting in expensive maintenance and repair costs.

Grease is not only a problem in commercial facilities, but also in residential properties. Cooking grease, which adheres to pipes, is the number one cause of sewage backups in residential basements. In addition to grease, there are several other items that can damage the sewer system, including:

- Rags such as diapers, underwear and cleaning cloths
- Q-Tips, cotton balls, hair, bandages and dental floss
- Disposable tissues, including paper towels, facial tissues, baby wipes, "flushable" wipes and disinfecting cleaning wipes
- Feminine hygiene products including tampons, applicators, pads and adhesive backings for pads
- Cleaning solvents and unused medications
- Anything flammable such as paint thinner, nail polish remover and gasoline

Only toilet tissue and human waste should be flushed into the sewer system, while all other items should be thrown in the trash. Residents and businesses who fail to follow the sanitary sewer ordinance may be fined, have water service discontinued to the property, or a combination of both.

Over time, issues with flushing inappropriate items into the sanitary sewer system have increased and cost the Village thousands of dollars each year to fix. The Village's Division of Water Reclamation is asking for everyone's help in preventing damage to the sanitary sewer system. The complete ordinance can be found on the Village's website at www.canalwinchesterohio.gov. More details, including fact sheets on the sanitary sewer system and grease traps can be found in the Division of Water Reclamation section of the Village's website.